Compendium

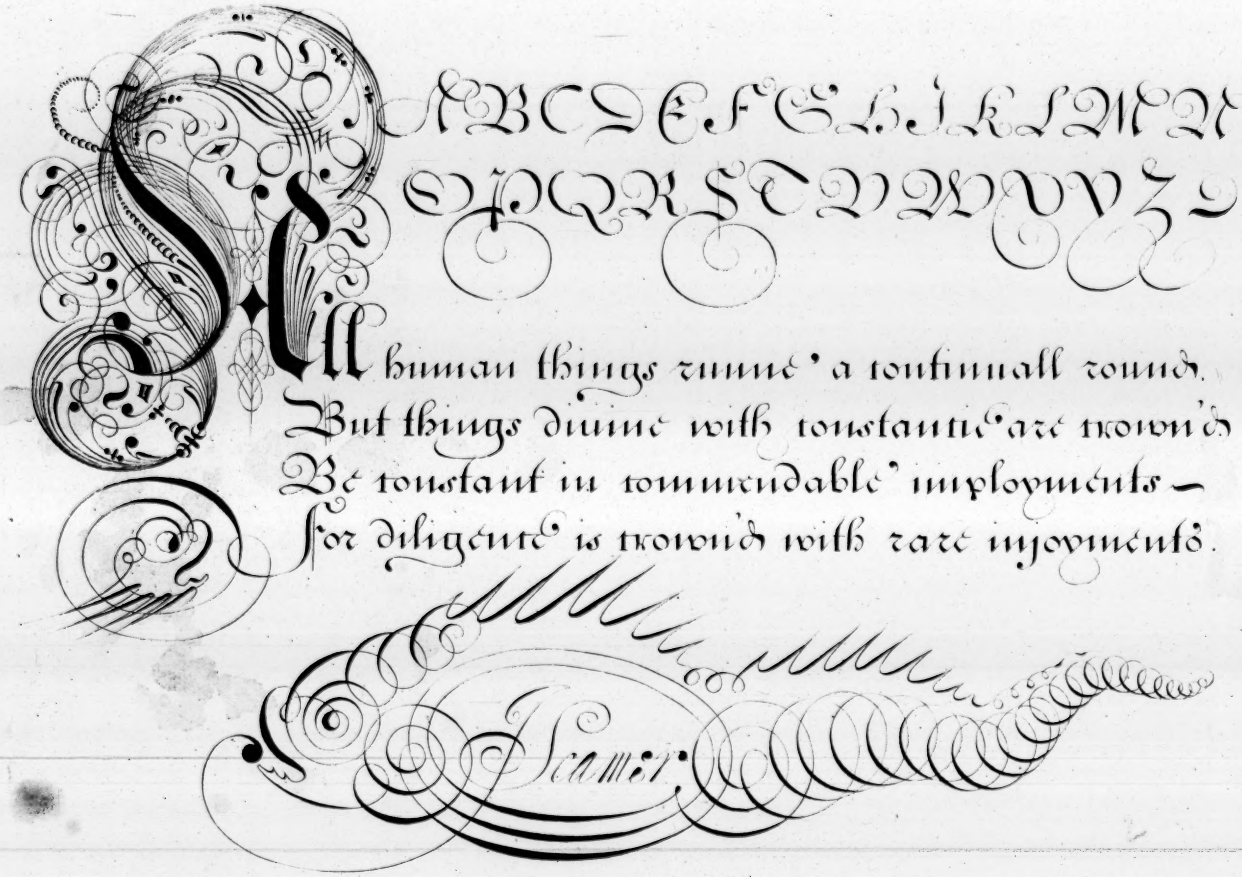
OF

All the vsuall Hands Written in England: performed according to the true genuine freedom and naturall tendencie of the Pen.

Invented, Written, and Ingraven

BY

James Seamer


ABCDEFGHIKLMN
OPQRSTUWVYZ
All human things runne a continuall round.
But things diuine with constancie are crown'd
Be constant in commendable imployments —
For diligence is crown'd with rare injoyments.
Seamer.

Ov an imprudent communicating of our
mindes to others, wee commonly make our
selues reditulous, & often times render y^t
contemtible wth before was had in Admiration

A abcdefghiklmnopqrstvwxyz

Scamer.

Courteous behaviour, prudent communication, and commendable actions are a pregnant indication of a virtuous temper; and the common Contomitants of Riches, and Reputation.
Camer.

Aa bc de f g h i k l all m n o p q r s t v u w x y z:

Despaire to great Goliath I resemble,
But Faith doth like to little David fare,
At whom though Saul and all his Host do tremble,
Yet all his threats bold David cannot scare,
He that hath giv'n the Lion and the Bear
Into his hands, he surely doth beleeve
This railing Philistine will never spare,
But will him unto like destruction leave,
Thus off wth his own sword David his head doth cleave.

Seamer.

A B C D E
F G H I K
L M N O P P
Q R S^o T V
W X Y Z &

a b c d e f g h i k l m n n o p q r s s t v u w x y z :

Ever O my Soul, covet Humility:—
Dost thou seek Knowledge, Pleasure, Wealth, Promotion?
All these she will thee bring assuredly.
She's like the Master-spring that first gives motion
To every wheel that in the Clock hath motion.
Like Salt that savours every dish we eat,
She's Sugar sweetning every bitter Potion.
Promotion, Knowledge, Pleasure, Wealth, Drink, Meat,
Humility's all these, and yet she is not great.

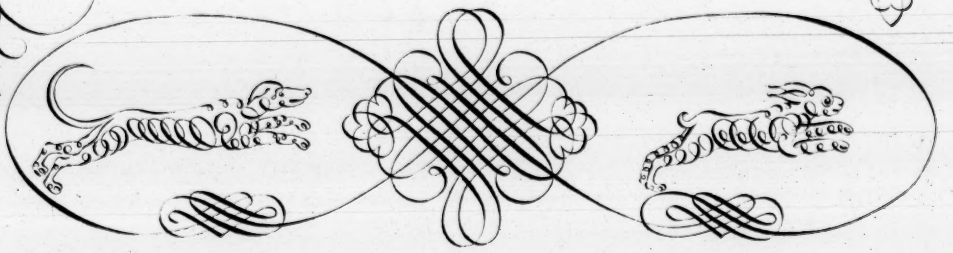
Seamer.

A B C D E F G H I K L M
N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z &

A B C D E F G H I K L M
N O P Q R S T U W X Y Z

Fond earth! Proportion not my seeming love
To my long stay; let not thy thoughts deceive thee;
Thou art my Prison, and my Home's above;
My life's a Preparation but to leave thee:
Like one that seeks a doore, I walke about thee;
With thee I cannot live, I cannot live without thee.

SEAMER



Aabcdefghiklmmmnopqrsstvuwxyz.

Seamer fecit

GOD, soules to cure, doth divers Balmes apply,
Whil'st his intent the sunesse still doth crowne:
Some are press'd downe; lest they should swell too high;
Some are rais'd high, lest that they should sink downe:
Some must have wealth, their charity to try,
Some poverty, their patience to renowne:
He who made all, knowes all, and as they need,
Not as they wish, makes things with his suneed.

A a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t v w x y z &

O W are my weather-beaten Thoughts oppreest
With th'earth-bred winds of my prodigious will:
Thus am I hourly tost from East to West
Upon the rouling streames of Good and Ill:
Thus am I driv'n upon these slippry Eudes,
From reall Ills to false apparent Goods;
My life's a troubled sea, compos'd of Ebbs & Floods.

Seamer

9

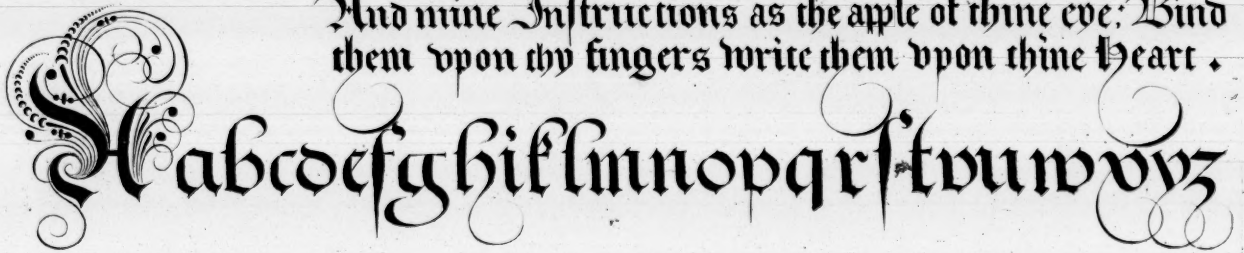
A a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r ſ s t v u w x y z z.

For that thing which worldlings do deplore,
Now yeeld to thee most hearty laud and praise,
That thou art pleas'd to humble me therefore,
On earth that thou again to Heav'n might'st raise,
Oh teach me Lord to number so my daies,
That I my life may labour to amend,
Oh teach me lowlinesse in all my waies,
To think of my beginning and mine end.
Prince, Begger, born alike, & to their grave descend.

Seamer

A B C D E F G H I K L M
N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z

And mine Instructions as the apple of thine eye: Bind them vpon thy fingers write them vpon thine Heart.



LORD

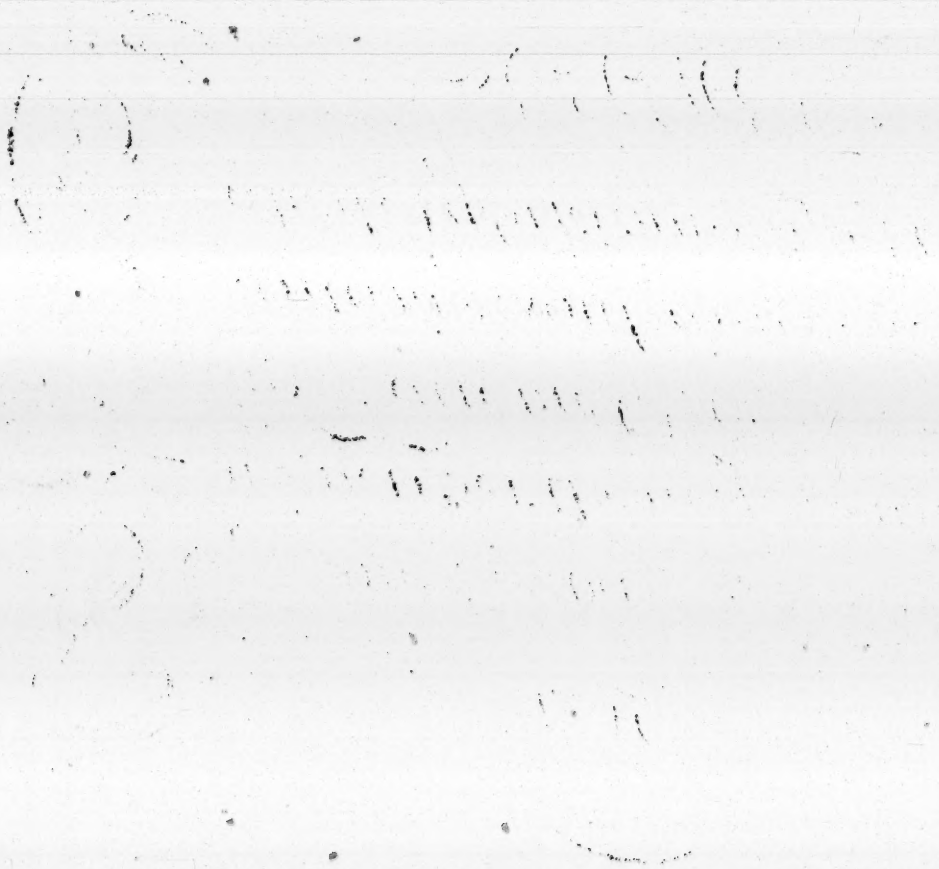
LET not the water-flood overflow
me, neither the deep swallow me
up. Heare me, O Lord, draw nigh
unto my soul, and redeem it.
abcdefghiklmnopq r s t uwxyz

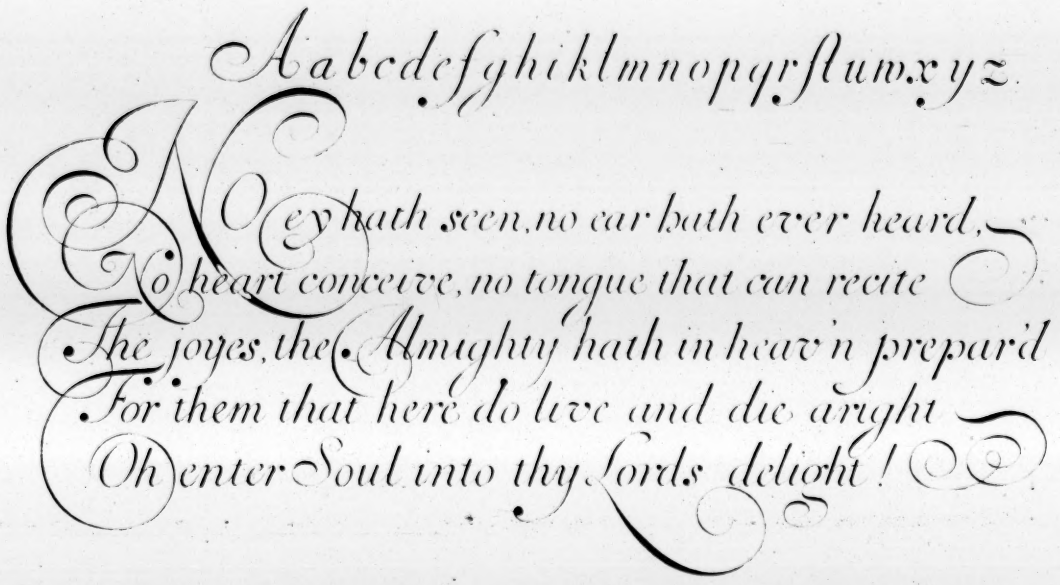
SEAMER

A a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t v u w x y z.

Meckness, Patience, true Obedience, joy,
Do alwaies with Humility abide.
She is most kinde and courteous never coy
Unto the vertuous, and sle ovens wide.
Loves gate unto the Humble but doth hide
ffrom th'envious, vain, and the ambitious wight,
Truth, Prudence, Knowledge, wth should be their guide:
Thus Humbleness guides all to Truth and Light.
But Pride, Ambition, lead to darkness, errour, night.

SEAMER





Seamer:

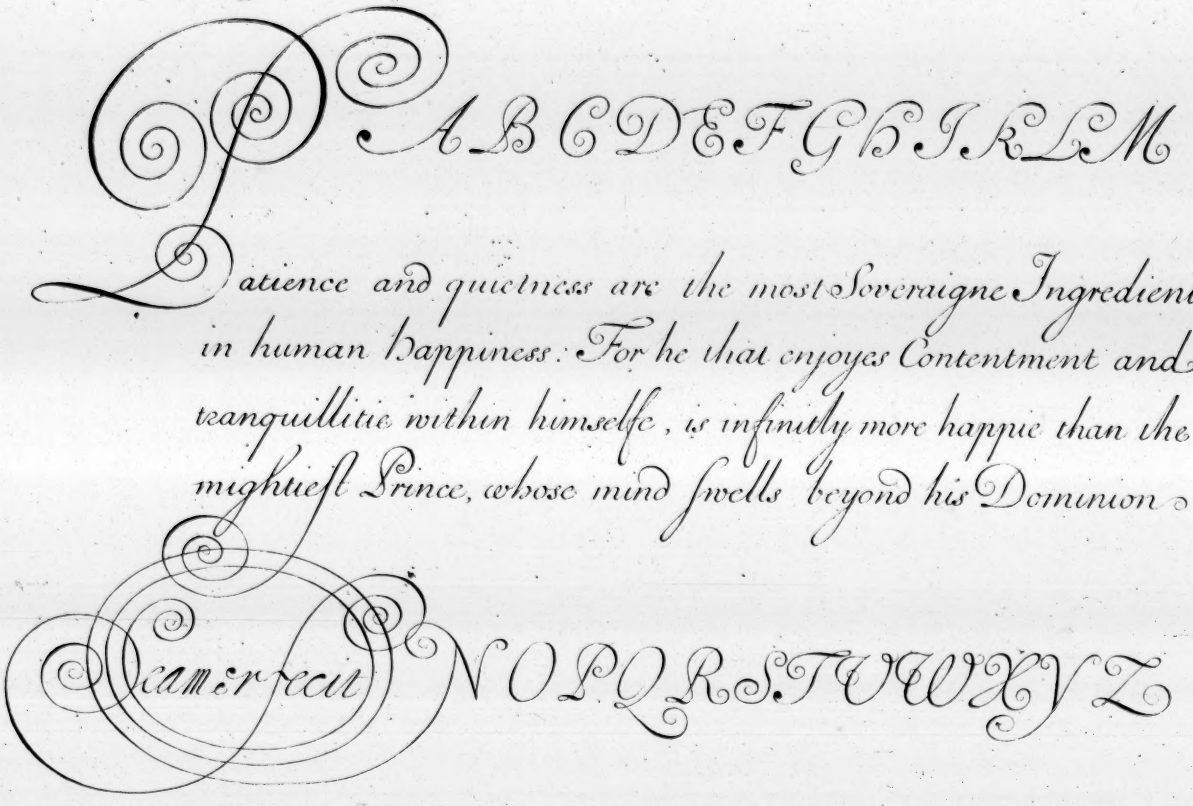
A B C D E F G H I K L M
N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z

A a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t v u w x y z.

O grant that I may live in mean estate,
And my freed soul with Contemplation please;
My cloathing warm, my diet temperate,
Freed from all tempests of worlds raging Seas,
Which toss poor sailing souls in dangerous disease.

Seaumer fecit

O mount my Soul, and let thy thoughts cashier
Earths vain delights, and make their full carier
At Heavins eternall joyes: stop, stop thy courser there.



PABCDEFGHIKLM

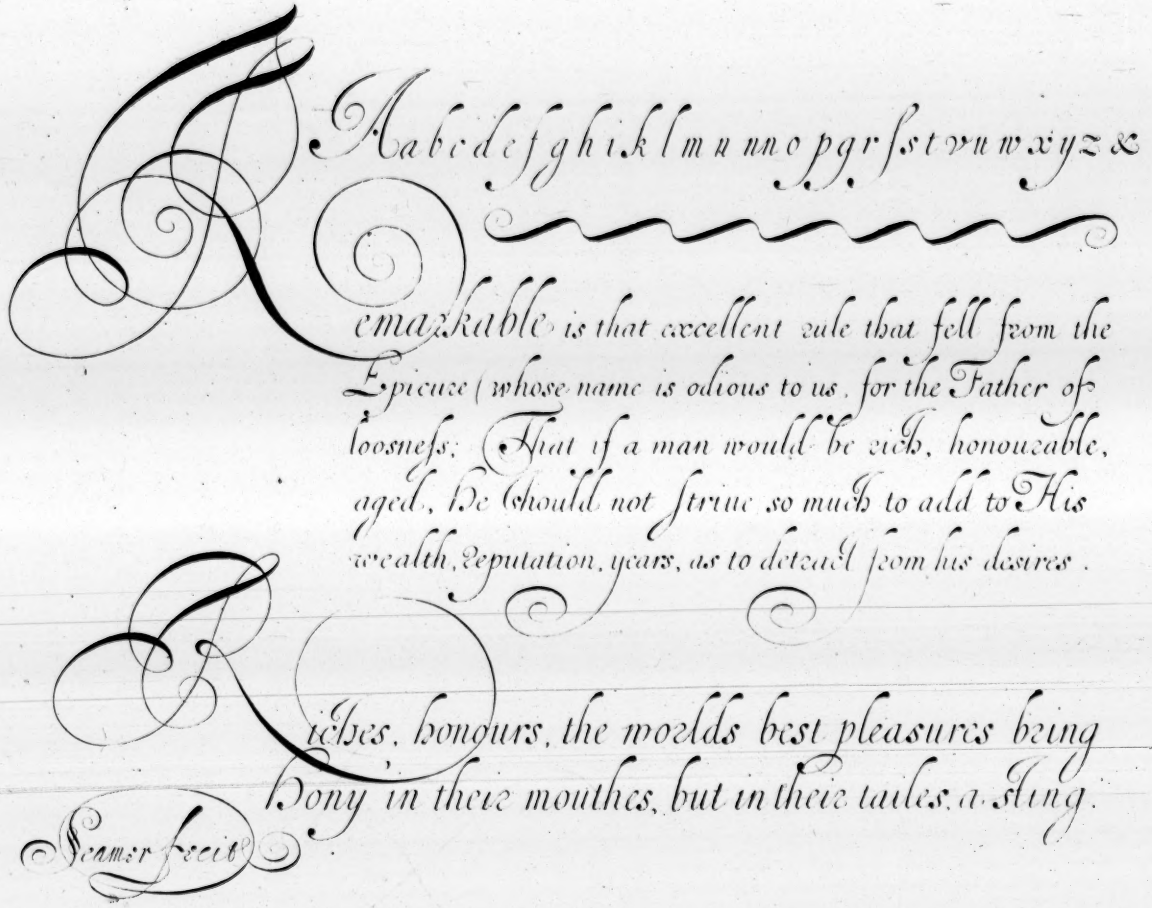
Patience and quietness are the most Soveraigne Ingredients in human happiness: For he that enjoyes Contentment and tranquillitie within himselfe, is infinitly more happie than the mightiest Prince, whose mind swells beyond his Dominion.

Seamer fecit NOPQRSTUWXYZ

Quietnes and Patience are two impregnable and inuincible virtues, no violence or provocation imaginable can ouercome them. A Quiet and composed mind conuerts Calamities into Consolations: And Patience turnes Indignities into contentment & Tranquillitie.

Seamer.

17


A a b c d e f g h i k l m n nn o p q r ſ s t v u w x y z &
Remarkable is that excellent rule that fell from the
Epicure (whose name is odious to us, for the Father of
loosnes: That if a man would be rich, honourable,
aged, he should not strive so much to add to His
wealth, reputation, years, as to detract from his desires.
Riches, honours, the worlds best pleasures being
Dony in their mouthes, but in their tailes a sting.
Seamer fecit

Habcdefghiklmnopqrstuwxyz.

Stand not so much upon the Title or theorie of Religion, as the practise in religion; for what is a Crowne without a Kingdome, Honour without Virtue, or Learning without perseuering.

Seam. r.

ABCDEFGHIKLM
NOPQRSTVWXYZ

O Lord, through thy Commanements hast
made me wiser than mine Enemies. I have more undeestand-
ing then my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditation. I un-
deestand more than the aged, because I keep thy Commandments.
Psamer. Faciebat.

Vertues presence is a dignitie,
which amazes the beholder
with incircling rayes

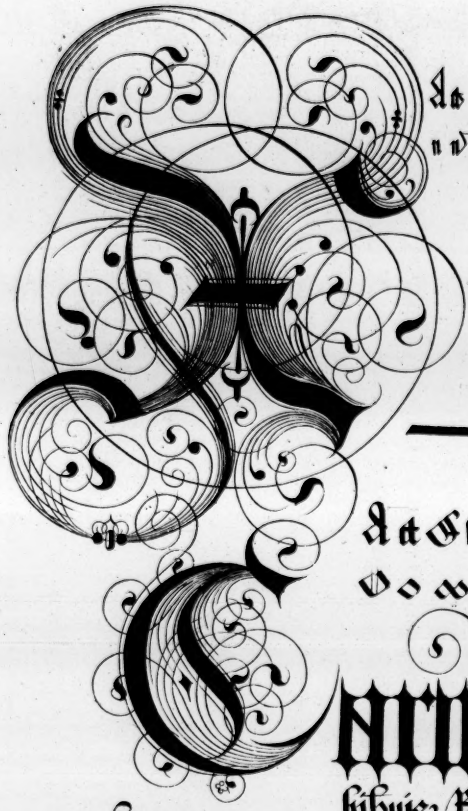
Seamer

Wie die Sonne mit ihrem Glanz
Alle Sternen verdunkelt ganz
Also auch Gottes Wort und Lehr
Alle falsche Lehr verkehrt.

Wie die Sonne mit ihrem Glanz
Alle Sternen verdunkelt ganz
Also auch Gottes Wort und Lehr
Alle falsche Lehr verkehrt.

Q. D. Ehmel.

B



Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz.

[illegible]

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz.

Carolus secundus dei gratia Angl. Scot. Franc. et Hibernie Rex fidei Defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes.

Cecamez.

DIRECTIONS

To chooſe your Quill, and make a Pen.

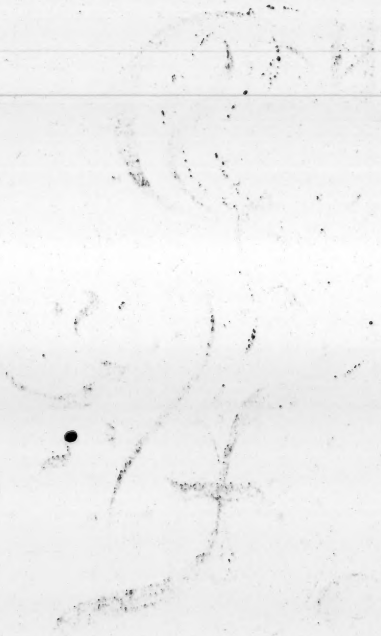
BEING provided of a good Pen-knife, with a ſmooth, thin, ſharp edge; Take the ſecond or third Quill of a Gooſe-wing, which is clear, hard, and round throughout, from the end to the feathery part: Thoſe Quills which have theſe properties are ſeldom bad, and tho there is variety of wayes to temper and harden Quills, I ſhall not here trouble you with any of thoſe nice curioſities, becauſe, one that is naturally hard, *&c.* I have ever found beſt, both for neatneſs in buſineſs and duration. Having ſcraped your quill, with the back of your Pen-knife, hold it in your left hand with the inſide upwards, and feather end from you, then enter your Knife a quarter of an Inch from the end and cut it half off; then meet that cut by entering your knife on the back ſide of the Quill, which will take of a piece and leave the end forked. Then make a ſhort ſlit in the back of the Quill with your Knife, which done with another Quill, or your knife peg put into the end of your Quill force up the ſlit ſo far as you would have it extend. Then cut off a piece ſlooping away on the inſide, like a ſcoope, and ſhape the nib by cuting both the ſides equally down, now to finiſh it, place the nib of your Pen upon the nail of your left hand Thumb, then draw your knife into it ſlanting, and when 'tis through turn the edge down right and cut it off.

To hold the Pen.

HOld the Pen in your right-hand with the hollow ſide downward, place your middle finger ſtrait, on the right ſide of the Pen, near half an inch from the end of the nibb; next, your fore-finger, on the top, or back of the Pen; and your Thumb on the inſide (of the Pen;) riſing in the joynt, that ſo you may thruſt out, and pull in the Pen with the more eaſe and freedom.

The beſt poſture in ſitting to Write.

PLace your Body even before the light, or ſo that the light comes on your left hand; let the board on which you write be ſloping, lay your book ſtrait before you, ſit upright, and bear your breaſt from the board, on which you write, two Inches. Hold your head the diſtance of a ſpan from the Paper, draw in your right-elbow, almoſt cloſe to your ſide; and lay out your left, and ſtay the paper with



conform, and comply to the Secretary in compaſs, depth, diſtance, full, and ſamll, keeping them even at head and foot; making their ſtems and tailes turn one way, and bear proportion one with an other, and carefully obſerve how far one Letter is helpful to the making another, as the *b*, *d*, *h*, and *k*, you may make with ſtems alike, and ſo for the reſt be mindful to obſerve their Coherencies, which will mightily help and facilitate you in the practice of this and all other Hands.

For Text Hand.

HAving your Paper ruled with double lines, fitted to the breadth of the Hand you imitate, and your Pen fitted to the perpendicular, or down-right ſtrokes of your Letters. This Hand tho never ſo much bigger, is writ like the ſet Secretary, which will much inform you in the making all Letters. Firſt make down-right ſtrokes, about the diſtance of the (*m*) which when you can do cleaverly, proceed to the ſtrokes of the (*b*, *k*, *h*, and *l*,) which bring almoſt down to the bottom line, then taking up the Pen, turn the nib towards your left hand, and lay it flat, which will produce the ground ſquare ſtrokes of the Letters, and draw their bodies even down. For every ſeveral fulneſs, you may take off your Pen, as your reaſon ſhall inform you, and the nature of every ſtroke require.

For the round ſwift Hand.

THis hand is of great uſe, becauſe 'tis pleaſant, written with little labour of the Hand, and ready for quick diſpatch of buſineſs let the nib of your pen be of an indifferent breadth, that you may make your letters full, and give them their true grace without leaning hard, or bruſing the nib of your Pen; practice to make the little *a*, perfect, and give it its true grace, and likewiſe the *Minims*, which muſt be made full, and clear without forcing the pen, the greateſt difficulty is in turning them at bottom and top, with an even roundneſs, which is alſo the greateſt dellicacy in this hand; which obſervation, and your own diligent practice may make you Maſter of.

For the Roman Hand.

LEt your Pen have an even nib, a long ſlit, and not too hard, at firſt writing uſe double lines, for this and all other deep Hands, at firſt write ſlowly, and attentively, diligently obſerving as before directed the proportions, and agreements of all Letters, (which is a general rule for every Hand) in their compaſs, as the *a*, *b*, *d*, *g*, *h*, *o*, *p*, *q*, *&c.* muſt be made with equal whites, in the bodies, where they correſpond together, in depth and length, keep them even at head and foot.

with your left-hand; when you are writing turn not your head one way or other, but mind your Copy, reſt not too much on your Arms, turn your hand out-ward, drawing it ſtrait under the line as you write, bear the Pen lightly, and gripe it not too hard. But,

More Particular to manage the Pen.

HAving (at firſt) your Paper ruled with double lines, at ſuch a diſtance as the Letters are in depth you write by, which may be done with a Quill cut forked. Then dip the nib of your Pen into the Ink with its hollow ſide downward, then begin to imitate the Alphabet of the hand you intend to write, when your eye is off the Copy you write by, let it be directed to what you write, and follow the point of your Pen, obſerving carefully its true progreſs in caſting Letters, and when you would make a full down-right ſtroke, as the bodies of Letters conſiſt of, apply the full mouth of the Pen, laying the nib flat upon the paper, and at once by drawing in your thumb and two fingers make the body ſtroke of a Letter. And when you would make fine hair ſtrokes apply the left corner of your Pen, in all Hands obſerving diligently, where the blacks and lights of Letters lie, and their due uniformity and correſpondency one with another, which ingeniouſly conſidered will very much help you in the writing of any Hand.

For Set Secretary.

YOur paper being ruled with double lines, the better to keep your Letters even at head, and foot, and having your Pens nib fitted to the breadth of a *Minim*, begin the Alphabet, and imitate the (*a*) obſerving diligently what parts in all Letters require a ſmall hair ſtroke, and thoſe make light with the Pens left corner; and where a full ſtroke is exacted, apply the flat nib of the Pen. In this full hand you muſt be very exact in making the ſquares, and Cantons of every Letter, which is the only grace and life of thoſe Leters whoſe bodies are ſomething fuller than the reſt, as the *b*, *f*, *h*, *k*, *ſ*, and *t*, muſt have a more than ordinary preſſure of the Pen. For the Capitals in this hand, they have conformity one with another and depend much upon the circle, which beſt directs you for their exact ſhapes, and proportions.

For Curſary, or mixed Secretary.

THis hand ſo much depends upon the former that the ſame rules are to be obſerved, with a little variation, which the example before you will ſufficiently direct, with careful obſervance, of what Letters are borrowed from other hands; which you muſt make con-

For Italian Hand.

HAving a Pen with a long nib and ſlender, begin and imitate the *c*, and *o*, which runs upon the Oval, as doth this hand in general, therefore I ſhall adviſe to the making and uſing your hand to Oval ſtroaks, and when you are perfect in that proceed to the making the whole Alphabet, and obſerve the rule for the agreement of letters, before mentioned, in joyning, unite all ſuch letters as will naturally joyn, by ſmall hair ſtroaks, and keep your Letters at their true diſtances, and dilligently imitate the Copy.

For Court, and Chancery Hands.

THe Pen for theſe hands muſt have its left corner of the nib ſhorter than the right, becauſe 'tis proper for theſe hands to lean rather to the left, than the right hand; the breadth of the *Minims*, and ſtroaks of the *m*, *n*, and *u*, are the beſt rules for their diſtances one from another, as alſo for the breadth of the nib of your Pen. And thoſe letters in Court Hand, whoſe body ſtroaks may be conjoyned in words, muſt not ſtand at a diſtance. When *r*, follows *o*, in a word, a round *r* muſt be made, and when two together follow an *o*, the firſt round and the ſecond long. Further obſerve 'tis the great ornament in writing this hand, to make your letters in every word ſtand as cloſe as one will permit another, which with your dilligent obſerving the natural effect of the Pen, and how one letter cleaves to an other, will be your beſt rule for the true writing thereof.

For Command of Hand.

WHen you would produce letters, or the circumfluent ſtroakes, which are the Ornament of Text Capitals; let your Ink be thin, ſuch as may freely flow from your Pen: Let your Pens nib be of an indifferent length and evenly cut; Then advancing your hand from the paper, and hold your elbow above your hand, begin with a ſmooth and even carriage of your hand, to make Circles and Ovals of an Inch, more or leſs diamiter, then begin to make the ſpiral, or ſerpentine lines, which begins large, and by a continued Circle runs into it ſelf leſſer and leſſer; which by practice will improve, and raiſe you to the acquaintance of the moſt graceful ſtroaks, which with the Examples before you, will inform you in every particular, how to apply the Pen in the making Capital Letters, or Flouriſhes and knots in Text Capitals.

FINIS.